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TOP SECRET

TICOM/I - 111

Further Interrogation of Oberstlt. METTIG OF OKW/Chi on 14th September, 1945.

Attached is a report on the interrogation of METTIG at CSDIG (UK) on 14th September, 1945, carried out by Cdr. DUDLEY-SMITH, Lt. Cdr. MANSON, Major SEAMAN and Captains GINSBURG and CAMPBELL.

TICOM/I - 17,86,96 refer.

TICOM

No. of Pages: 6

19th September, 1945

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METTIG

Q. What do you consider was the most outstanding cryptanalytic achievement of (a) In 7/VI and (b) OKW/Chi ?

A. For In 7/VI, the breaking of the Russian 5-figure recyphered code, and also the reading of the Polish LONDON - WARSAW traffic by Referat VAUCK.

Q. To whom is the credit for these successes mainly due ?

A. The Russian 5-figure was broken chiefly by DETTMAN /Note: P/W could recall the name only when prompted/ It was also worked on by KVRat HARMS and, for a short time, by NOVOPASHNY.
P/W did not know who was responsible for the initial success on the Polish traffic: it was worked on latterly by BERNDT of Chi/V.

Q. And the greatest achievement of OKW/Chi ?

A. /P/W's answer was confused and quite unsatisfactory: be quoted Turkish diplomatic traffics PARIS/ANKARA, MOSCOW/ANKARA, and an American traffic between WASHINGTON and N. AFRICA; this latter he thought was in M 209, was military but yet not military, rather military attaché only it was not sent by a military attache/

Q. And that of the other cipher bureaus ?

A. No knowledge of the Forschungsamt: the Auswaertigesamt were latterly most successful with Turkish.

Q. Luftwaffe ?

A. Can't say.

Q. Navy ?

A. MORGENROTH can best answer that.

Q. Was OKW/Chi interested in Japanese ciphers and were they worked on ?

A. They had some photostat copies of Japanese ciphers, but P/W does not know of any cryptanalytic success with them and does not think anything of any intelligence was obtained.
/P/W was asked to consider the matter and to write a somewhat fuller account of the major German cryptanalytic achievements/

Q. P/W was then asked if he knew Insp. HELLER of In 7/VI. What was his Christian name? Could he give a description of him ?

A. Did not know him at all well : can give no details.

Q. How old is he ?

A. Perhaps about 30.

Q. What do you know of work on the interception of British and American Wireless Teleprinter and Automatic Morse traffic ?

A. It was worked on by Pruef 7 in STATS. I know of no success achieved.

Q. Who worked on it ?

A. Baurat KERKHOFF. Possibly also Dr. LEBKUECHT and SCHELLHORST.

Q. What was KERKHOFF's Christian name and where did he live ?

A. It may have been HEINRICH: he lived somewhere beyond (?)Simenstrasse in BERLIN.

Q. Were these systems worked on cryptanalytically or not ?

A. The stuff went to Gen.d NA. Beyond that I know nothing.

Q. Did OKW work on the Interdepartmental cipher or did it act merely as a clearing-house.

A. It was not worked on at OKW.

Q. What arrangements existed for pooling intercept material ?

A. Departments concerned worked directly among themselves with a certain amount of liaison: there was no control from above.

Q. Was traffic passed by OKW to the Forschungsamt, for example ?

A. I do not know.

Q. To OB d L ?

A. There was close collaboration.

Q. Was all traffic passed or only a selection ?

A. Normally all traffic when a system was still unsolved. /Note: P/W here referred particularly to an R.A.F. cipher/

Q. Can you describe ORR Rotter of Chi V ?.

A. He is Austrian, and speaks Austrian dialect; 35 - 40 years old; dark hair ; 1.70 m. tall ; wears spectacles; slim. Lived in BERLIN.

Q. What was the size of his staff ?

A. 15 - 20 roughly.

Q. Their activities ?

A. They worked on English systems but I do not know any details. They worked very closely with the American section. So far as I know they did not work on any machine.

Q. Were the people mathematicians or linguists ?

A. They were about 80% linguists and 20% mathematicians. ROTTER himslef was a linguist.

Q. What do you know of German Sigint in the Far East ?

A. There was a station at NANKING under KO CHINA. [P/W said all his information on this subject came from Oberst. SCHUBERT]

Q. When was the link with HALLINAA started ?

A. I think at the beginning of the second Russo-Finnish war.

Q. What cipher was used for this channel ?

A. Enigma with special wheel-wirings.

Q. Whereabouts in FINLAND was the other end of the link ?

A. At Finnish G.H.Q.: Where that was exactly, I do not know. Maj. MARQUARDT of Gen. d NA was there as liaison Officer.

Q. Was the link used for passing raw material, cipher recoveries, eto ?

A. Not for raw material but only for short messages of cryptanalytic content ((Hinweise)).

Q. What is your opinion of the Finns as cryptanalysts ?

A. They were very good. There was a Finnish Liaison Officer to Gen.d NA with a name something like NIECK-OYA. They worked on the same systems as the Germans and sent Russian 5-figure material to them. FENNER would know the details.

Q. Was there any liaison with the Spanish Sigint Service ?

A. About a year ago we were passing to the Spaniards Frenoh traffic from N.AFRICA and military traffic in general from N. AFRICA. We received from them 'Kabelgramme' about ship-movements, probably originating from commercial attachés.

Q. Do you know any names ?

A. Lt. Col. SAMIENTO was formerly head of their intercept organisation; later he became chief signals officer. Lt. Col. CORTI or CORTY was their cryptanalytic expert.

Q. Their ability ?

A. They knew nothing.

Q. How long was Oberinsp. ZILLMANN head of the English Referat of In 7/VI ?

A. He was so all the time I was there, i.e. from the end of '41 till the middle of '43; I do not know how long he was there altogether.

Q. Can you describe him ?

A. He was 35 - 40, 1.75 m. tall, with dark-brown hair, rather curly. I do not know his Christian name.

Q. His ability ?

A. He had come from the ranks and had limitations. He was not a mathematician - a practical man, rather.

Q. When did you last hear of him ?

A. I last saw him at JÜTERBOG, abt. October 1944. I am not sure whether he was still in the same job then.

Q. When was the B 211 first broken ?

A. After the 1940 French campaign. It was a purely analytic solution, at In 7/VI, by PIETSCH, KUEHN, DOERING.

Q. When did it cease to be exploited, and why ?

A. I do not know.

Q. Who ran the T/P interception at PARIS and what happened to them ?

A. I was told about it by Maj. KEMPE, but know no details. It was presumably done by the French.

Q. Can you explain further what you meant by saying ODEN of the F/A was an expert on cables ?

A. He was simply an expert on the F/A's own telecommunications.

Q. What was the size of Referat VAUCK ?

A. There were about 20 people in JÜTERBOG, 10 at outstations, and 8 Polish specialists with OKW.

Q. Who directed the policy of agent W/T interception ?

A. Fu III.

Q. How was the work shared between BERLIN and the outstations ?

A. Recognised traffic was done on the spot, unknown material went to BERLIN.

Q. How was the traffic sorted, and where ?

A. The traffic was first sorted locally, but all traffic came to BERLIN in duplicate as well.

Q. What were the special methods of approach you mentioned.

A. Captured documents and traffic analysis.

Q. What types of cipher were broken ?

A. Mostly 'Caesaren' based on book-texts.

Q. How did the Germans get details of the pick-up operations ?

A. From deciphered texts or captured documents.

Q. Was German policy about their own agents' ciphers modified according to the findings of Referat VAUCK ?

A. This happened latterly. From the summer of '44 onwards there was liaison with Regt. BRANDENBURG zbV 800. MENZER too was concerned in this, though he worked little with VAUCK.